

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion and amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 have been canceled and Claims 6-15 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 4 and 5 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c); and Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Priestly.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, a replacement Figure 5 is enclosed that corresponds with the description in the specification. In particular, element 37 has been deleted, and the reference "36" is not used to describe two elements (one of the elements 36 has been deleted). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as improper dependent claims, Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. New Claims 6-15 are not improper multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Claims 1-5 have been canceled and new Claims 6-15 have been drafted in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Priestly. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

New Claim 6 is directed to a method of manufacturing a gas liquid contact plate. The method includes providing a plurality of straight rows of the contact plate, using male and

female press dies with a plurality of teeth arranged on end portions of the dies to form irregularities over both surfaces of the contact plate at equal intervals to a respective row such that adjacent rows have repeated irregularities opposite to each other, and forming openings in a peak and valley portion of the irregularities. The openings connect a front surface to a back surface between the adjacent rows and cover an area of 10-20% of the contact plate. Independent Claim 11 includes similar features.

Because the openings formed in the contact plate cover an area of 10-20% of the contact plate, a high watability of the contact plate is achieved. Further, a liquid drop flows through the openings so that wetting can spread, because the contact plate has an open area of 10-20% of the contact plate. This also results in a higher efficiency.

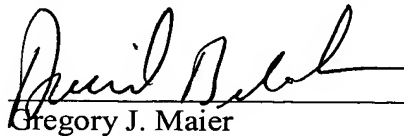
On the contrary, Priestly does not teach or suggest using male and female press dies to form irregularities, nor forming openings in a peak and valley portion of the irregularities in which the openings connect a front surface to a back surface between the adjacent rows and covering an area of 10-20% of the contact plate as claimed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 6 and 11, and each of the claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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